

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed on October 14, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully noted. From the Summary page, claims 33-38 were pending. Claims 35-37 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 33 and 34 are allowed. Claim 38 is rejected.

By this response, withdrawn claim 35 and previously submitted new claim 38 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is moot.

Further, Applicants courteously request that withdrawn claims 36 and 37 be allowed for similar reasons submitted for allowed claims 33 and 34. That is, claims 36 and 37 further define the modules introduced in independent claim 33. For instance, claim 36 further describes the modules as including process modules. Claim 37, which depends upon claim 36, describes that the process modules perform resist coating, development after resist exposure, hydrophobic processing of semiconductor substrates, heating and cooling. For at least these reasons, Applicants kindly submit that claims 36 and 37 also stand in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the presently outstanding rejection and that it be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033082 M 278.

Respectfully submitted,
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